

PRELIMINARY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
PACE AND CYCLONE WATER PIPELINE JOIN AND EXTENSION
EA No. NV-040-02-010

November 20, 2003

Project Number 554900

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Caliente Field Station
Ely Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
Caliente, Nevada

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

I. BACKGROUND

The proposed action would occur within the Cliff Springs Allotment. It would allow Delamar Valley Cattle Company to extend the Cyclone Pipeline (Project 0495), northeast for a distance of approximately 3.9 miles and to construct a 0.5 mile spur that will connect the new pipeline to the pipeline from Pace Springs (Pace Spring Pipeline Extension and Dry Lake Pipeline (Collectively known as Project 5056) and Dry Lake Pipeline (at Board Corral (Project 4469) (Appendix A: Map of Proposed Project Area). A storage tank would be installed near the junction of the two lines and two new stock tanks would be added. Existing stock tanks on the pipelines would be fitted with float systems creating a closed system with water originating from two sources.

B. Need for Proposal

The need for the proposal is to improve range and watershed conditions by providing additional sources of water that will spread utilization of forage to soils other than fine sandy loam and silt loam soils in the Cliff Springs Allotment. This will improve the reliability of water sources for livestock and wildlife. These needs are expressed in the following project objectives. Each objective includes an identifier, i.e. a statement of objective, and, in parentheses (), a method of measurement of objective success.

- A. Reduce cattle utilization of forage growing on fine sandy loam and silt loam soils in the Cliff Springs Allotment (utilization mapping).
- B. Increase cattle utilization of forage growing on sandy loam and gravelly sandy loam soils in the Cliff Springs Allotment (utilization mapping).
- C. Increase the reliability of water supplied to the Cliff Springs Allotment (frequency of water supply failure).
- D. Increase cattle distribution north of Board Corral and west of the Powerline Road (utilization mapping and observation).

C. Relationship to Planning

The project would meet Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allotment specific objectives and would be in accordance with the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health. Approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Pipeline and Spring Development would be followed (Appendix B, (I)).

Management of the project area is guided by the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA Sec. 1732 directs the Secretary to manage lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield and in accordance with land use plans.

Additionally, planning unit, resource area, and allotment specific objectives that apply to the project area are variously described in the Caliente Environmental Statement (ES),

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the Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP), the Rangeland Program Summary Update for the Caliente Resource Area (RMS), Caliente MFP Objective RM-1 directs the BLM to continue to manage grazing of domestic livestock on the Federal range in the Caliente Planning Unit. The Caliente ES states that livestock watering facilities would be provided in allotments and rested pastures during determined periods of need for wildlife and wild horses (p. 1-15). The Caliente ES suggests that the development of additional water sources would allow better distribution of livestock over the ES area and reduce the concentrated use areas (p. 3-12).

Additionally, the Lincoln County Public Land and Natural Resource Management Plan (LCP), drafted and approved by Lincoln County Commissioners asserts, range improvement projects should be developed to improve grazing and the CRMP has requested that the BLM make water developments available to livestock and wildlife. Members of the local Coordinated Resource Management Process (CRMP) comment on management of the project area on an ongoing basis.

All activities within the Ely District are guided by the Ely Field Office Noxious Weed Prevention Schedule issued December 7, 1999. The Ely Field Office Noxious Weed Prevention schedule does not specifically address the installation of pipelines or other projects. However, it does contain a list of prevention activities and parties responsible for the activities in this EA. Applicable activities and responsible parties are included in Appendix C: Excerpts from the Ely Field Office Weed Prevention Schedule.

D. Issues

There are no issues currently identified for the proposed action.

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II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the Proposed Action, a No-Action Alternative and an alternative considered but eliminated from detailed analysis (Water Hauls).

A. Proposed Action

Description: The Proposed Action would allow the Delamar Valley Cattle Co. to extend the Cyclone Pipeline (Project 0495) northeast for a distance of approximately 3.9 miles and to construct a 0.5 mile spur that would connect the new pipeline to the Pace Spring Pipeline (Project 5056) at Board Corral (Project 4469). The Proposed Action would occur in T. 3S R. 64E Sections 12, 13, and 24 and in T. 3S R. 65E Section 6, Mount Diablo Meridian (see Map A). Two new stock tanks would be added and a storage tank would be buried near the junction of the two lines. This junction would occur on the road from Board Corral to the Powerline Road. Bird ladders would be installed in the new stock tanks in accordance with wildlife standards. Existing stock tanks on the pipelines would be fitted with float systems to create a pipeline network with water originating from two sources. This extension would increase the quantity of water delivered and improve the dependability of the system. The alignment suggested in this alternative was proposed to accommodate local topography and to eliminate the need for water hauls. The Proposed Action would meet all project objectives.

The project would be constructed in compliance with applicable Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and requirements for Cultural Resources (See Appendix B: Standard Operating Procedures), and applicable Prevention Activities as described within the Weed Prevention Schedule (Appendix C: Excerpts for the Ely Field Office Noxious Weed Prevention Schedule).

The pipeline would be concealed using a crawler tractor with a ripper tooth. The pipeline would be installed to a minimum depth of 30" and vents would be placed as necessary. The permittee would assume maintenance responsibility through a Cooperative Agreement. This Cooperative Agreement would include mitigating measures for weed prevention and/or spread. Maintenance would be facilitated by the presence of previously existing roads. No additional roads would be required.

A project inspector would be on-site to insure that BLM SOPs, Terms, and Conditions are complied with.

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B. Alternatives

Alternative 1, No-Action

Description: The No-Action Alternative would maintain current livestock management practices without change. Cattle would continue to concentrate forage use on sandy loam and gravelly sandy loam soils in the Cliff Springs Allotment

C. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis-Water Hauls

Alternative 2, Water Hauls

Description: Under this alternative, the permittee would establish water hauls at the trough locations as explained under the Proposed Action. The use of water hauls would necessitate additional truck trips which can be more detrimental to the landscape than delivering the water through an underground pipeline.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Soils, Vegetation and Rangeland Resources: Although the Cliff Springs Allotment encompasses a variety of soil mapping units (SMU) and vegetation communities, portions of the allotment that would be affected are located in fine sandy loam and silt loam soils (SMU 1520) and in more upland soils (SMUs 1471 and 1710) of the Delamar Lake Valley.

The distinctive plant communities associated with the proposed project are found within the Caliente ES and are all within the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA), labeled Southern Nevada Basin and Range, number 029.

The following Caliente ES associations are: Shadscale, Winterfat, and Joshua tree associations. The shadscale association contains: shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*), Nevada jointfir (*Ephedra nevadensis*), galleta (*Hillaria jamesii*), and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*). The Winterfat association contains: winterfat (*Ceratoides lanata*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), bud sagebrush (*Artemisia spinescens*), galleta (*Hillaria jamesii*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), and squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*). The Joshua tree association contains: spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*), blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*), Nevada jointfir (*Ephedra nevadensis*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), and Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*).

The Delamar Valley Cattle grazing permit is as follows:

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Permit	Permittee	Livestock numbers	Length of Season	Percent Public Land	Total AUMs
	Delamar Valley Cattle	171 Cattle	03/01 to 02/28	100	2052

As drought mitigation for years 2002 and 2003, Delamar Valley Cattle has voluntarily reduced stocking rates to the following:

2002	Delamar Valley Cattle	407 Cattle Lower Cliff pasture	01/01 to 04/11	100	1351
	Delamar Valley Cattle	120 Cattle Upper Cliff pasture	05/04 to 07/13	100	280
				Total	1631
2003	Delamar Valley Cattle	66 Cattle Lower Cliff pasture	03/05 to 05/10	100	651

Cultural Resources: On July 24, 2001, the proposed project area was examined for cultural artifacts. No artifacts greater than 50 years of age were discovered in the project area. A cultural files search treating the project area was completed on Sept. 12, 2001.

Invasive and Noxious Weeds: No noxious weeds are known to occur in the project areas. However, an invasive, non-native species, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) occurs throughout much of the project area.

Wildlife: Numerous wildlife species are dependent upon the salt desert shrub community. The project is located within mule deer range. Predators such as mountain lions, bobcats and coyotes probably inhabit the area as well as small mammals and reptiles. A variety of migratory birds utilize the area during migration and nesting seasons.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Statement of Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action would have no impacts on the following:

Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate, Threatened or Endangered, and State Sensitive): No species occurring on the Nevada Natural Heritage Program lists of threatened and endangered species, updated as of Feb. 15, 2001, has been identified within or near the project area.

Floodplains, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas: (Executive Order 11988). Knowledge of the area indicates that the project is not located within a functional floodplain. The project does not include wetlands or riparian areas.

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Wilderness Values, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wild and Scenic Rivers: The proposed action would not occur in or within one mile of any identified Wilderness Study Area, Instant Study Area, Wilderness Area, or Area of Critical Environmental Concern. There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers in Lincoln County.

Visual Resource Management: The project area falls within a VRM Class IV Area. Class IV allows for activities with a high level of change to the landscape. Such activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. The effects of the proposed action would not exceed those allowed by this VRM class. Therefore, this topic was eliminated.

Prime or Unique Farmlands: According to NRCS, Soil Survey of Lincoln County, Nevada, South Part, none of the soils in the project area are classified as prime and unique farmlands.

Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898): The proposed action would not have disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects on minorities or low income populations or communities.

Water Quality: No alternative under consideration is expected to have measurable effects on water quality.

Wild Horses and Burros: This project is not located in a Herd Management Area and would not affect wild horses.

Wastes, hazardous and solid: Hazardous and Solid Wastes would not be affected by this project.

Native American Religion Concerns: This project was presented at a Tribal Council Meeting held on November 28, 2001 in Ely, Nevada. It was determined that this project would not affect Native American Religious Concerns.

B. Anticipated Impacts of the Proposed Action

Soils, Vegetation and Rangeland Resources: The Proposed Action would reduce livestock use on fine sandy loam and silt loam soils in the Cliff Springs Allotment. Forage utilization by livestock would be spread onto areas of sandy loam and gravelly sandy loam soils in the Cliff Springs Allotment. Disturbance of surface soil would be confined to an area no wider than the width of the pipe-burying equipment. Soil to a depth of one-to-three feet deep would be disturbed by burying the pipeline. Minor soil loss could occur as a result of wind

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and water erosion. The area in and around the water trough would be disturbed by livestock using the water trough.

Cultural, Paleontological, and Historical Resource Values: Cultural resource protection requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order 11593, and Section 101 (b) (4) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Prior to project construction, intensive field inventories (Class III), must be conducted as appropriate, to identify potentially impacted sites. If cultural or paleontological sites are found, every effort must be made to avoid impacts. Further, if cultural or paleontological sites are found, data recovery plans would be developed and BLM would consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in accordance with the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement by and between the BLM and the Council dated January 14, 1980.

On July 24, 2001, the proposed project area was examined for cultural artifacts. No artifacts greater than 50 years of age were discovered in the project area. A cultural files search treating the project area was completed on Sept. 12, 2001. If at any time during the course of the project a cultural resource would be identified, it would be left in place, and the authorized official would be contacted by telephone, with written confirmation (see Appendix B (II): Standard Operating Procedures-Cultural).

Invasive, Non-native Species (Including Noxious Weeds): No noxious weeds are known to occur in the project areas. However, an invasive, non-native species, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) occurs throughout much of the project area. A weeds assessment of the proposed action indicated low or nonexistent potential (0) for spread of noxious weeds (Appendix D: Risk Assessment for Noxious Weeds). Surface disturbance may lead to increased cheatgrass establishment. The project area would be monitored for increased cheatgrass distribution related to this action.

Air Quality: There would be short-term effects of dust and exhaust fumes during the laying of the pipeline. This project would have no measurable long-term effects on air quality.

Wildlife: Wildlife would have access to additional water sources whenever the pipeline valves are open. The Proposed Action would be expected to reduce grazing pressure by livestock on plants located near existing water sources. The proposed action would increase the availability and reliability of waters in the project area.

Migratory Birds: In accordance with the Ely District Policy, Management Actions for the Conservation of Migratory Birds, no construction activity would take place between May 1 and July 15. If construction would occur during this time, the area to be disturbed must be

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clearly marked and a wildlife biologist would perform a survey to determine if any migratory bird breeding and nesting is occurring in the project area. Migratory birds would not be affected by this project.

V. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A. Cumulative Impacts

Past Actions: The Lower Pasture of the Cliff Springs Allotment is approximately 18,000 acres in size and has been used for livestock grazing since at least the 1880s. Various range improvement projects, including the original Pace Spring Pipeline Extension/Dry Lake Pipeline deliver water from Pace Spring to the Board Corral; Cliff and Rabbit Spring Pipeline deliver water from Cliff and Rabbit Spring to the Board Corral; and Cyclone Pipeline delivers water to the southern end of the Lower Pasture. Board Corral has both a reservoir and a trough. The other trough is at the end of the Cyclone Pipeline. Six ephemeral reservoirs are scattered along the western third of the allotment. The allotment boundaries are fenced. Drift fences and physical barriers define the Upper Pasture from the Lower Pasture.

Present Actions: Delamar Valley Cattle Company primarily uses the area for fall through early spring grazing and typically rests the project area from grazing during spring green-up. Under current management, liquid supplements and salts are utilized to increase cattle distribution into the eastern, more upland portions of the allotment and to decrease livestock loitering at waters.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions: Livestock use of this area is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Livestock grazing will continue to be managed to meet Resource Advisory Council Standards.

VI. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Appropriate mitigation has been included within the Proposed Action. No additional mitigating measures are proposed.

VII. PROPOSED MONITORING

Appropriate monitoring has been included within the proposed action. No additional monitoring is proposed.

VIII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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A. Intensity of Public Interest

The proposed project has made available to the general public on Ely Field Office website. Wilderness groups were notified of the intended actions. A list of persons, groups, and agencies to whom the document was sent and from whom comments were received is in Appendix E.

B. Internal District Review

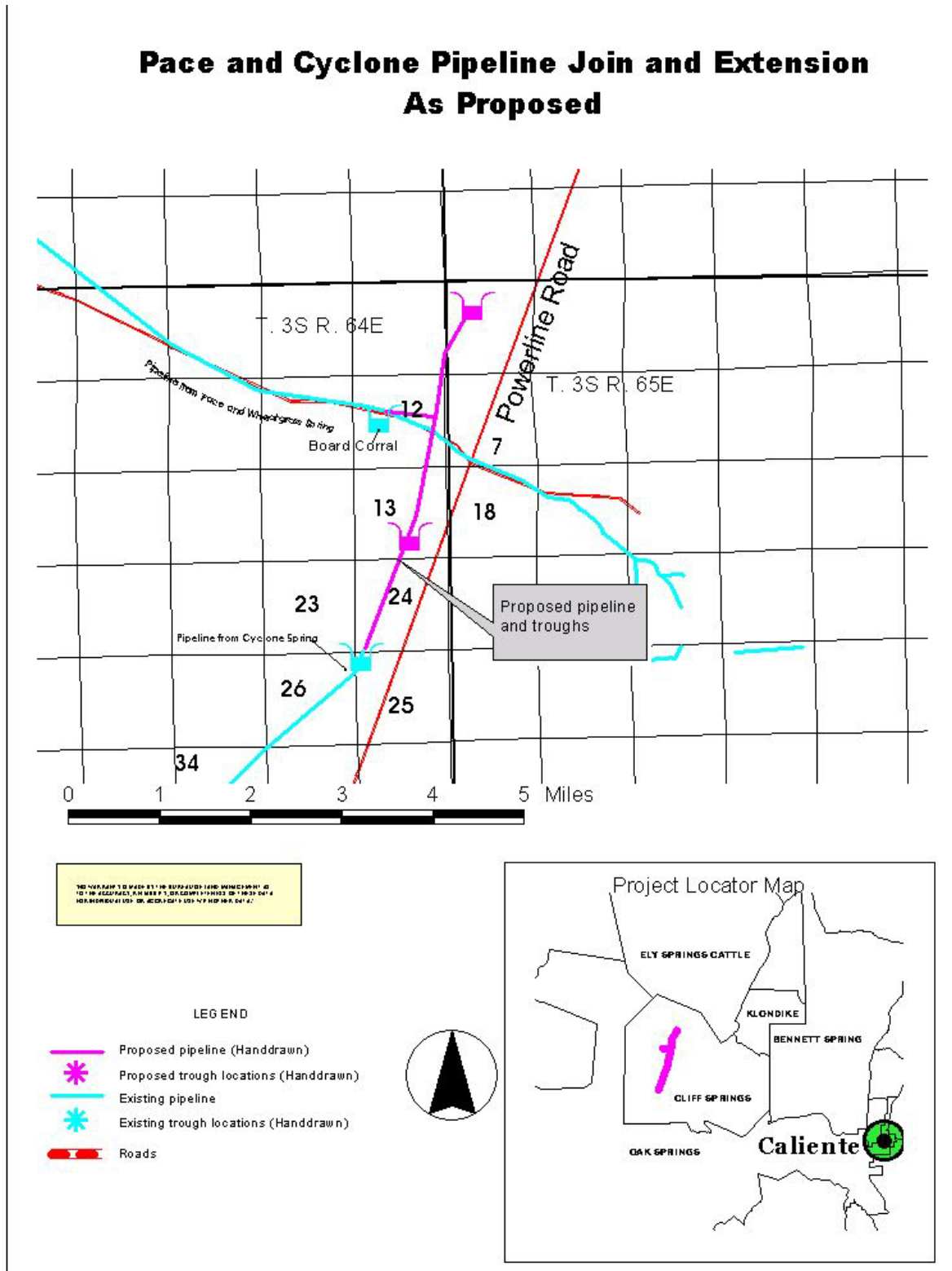
During scoping, a team of agency personnel were identified to provide guidance and internal district review for this project. The members of this team are as follows:

Jeff Brower	Soil/Water/Air
Chris Mayer	Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist
Carolyn Sherve-Bybee	Cultural Resources
Karen Prentice	Noxious Weeds
Bruce Winslow	Wilderness/VRM
Karen Prentice	Rangeland Resources
Jared Redington	Wild Horse and Burro
William Smith	Wildlife, T&E
Susan Baughman	Environmental Coordination

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IX. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Map of Proposed Project Area



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Appendix B: Standard Operating Procedures

The following Standard Operating Procedures for Pipeline and Spring Development (SOPs) are approved by management. All SOPs, whether applicable or not, are listed here. A subheading, “Action” has been added to each SOP. If the SOP has been complied with, then this compliance is noted under “Action”. If the SOP is not applicable to the project under consideration, then this lack of applicability is noted under “Action”. If the SOP would be complied with during project completion, then the party responsible for compliance and/or enforcement of compliance is noted. Standard Operating Procedures-Cultural are excerpted from the terms and conditions for the operator’s permit.

I. Standard Operating Procedures for Pipeline and Spring Development

1. Environmental assessments (EA) will be done before project development to evaluate impacts on a site-specific basis.

Action: An Environmental Assessment was prepared.

2. Time of day and/or time of year restrictions will be utilized in those areas where construction activities are in the immediate vicinity or would cross sage grouse strutting, nesting and wintering grounds; critical wild sheep areas, critical mule deer and pronghorn antelope winter range; antelope kidding areas, or active ferruginous hawk nest sites.... The level of restriction necessary will be specified in the site-specific amendments.

Action: Not applicable because no such sites have been identified within the proposed Project Area.

3. New surface disturbing projects within the one-quarter mile buffer zone, on either side of the Pony Express Route are limited to existing disturbed areas. Specific stipulations for minimizing adverse visual and physical effects including rehabilitation will be addressed in the site-specific environmental analysis. These stipulations will be developed through the environmental review process for each action.

Action: Not applicable because the proposed Project Area is further than one-quarter mile from the Pony Express Route.

4. Prior to the approval of a project, which may harm or destroy any known Native American religious or cultural sites, the affected Native American tribes or organizations will be contacted for further consultation.

Action: Affected tribes were contacted on November 28, 2001.

5. Threatened or endangered plant or animal species clearance is required before implementation of any project. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is necessary if a threatened or endangered species or their habitat (especially proposed or designated Critical Habitat), may be impacted. If there is deemed to be an adverse impact, either special design relocation or abandonment of the project will follow.

Action: Not applicable because no such species or habitat for such species have been identified within the proposed project area.

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6. Cultural resource protection requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order 11593, and Section 101 (b) (4) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Prior to project approval, intensive field (Class III) inventories will be conducted as appropriate, to identify potentially impacted sites. If cultural or paleontological sites are found, every effort will be made to avoid impacts. Data recovery plans will be developed and BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in accordance with the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement by and between the BLM and the Council dated January 14, 1980. This agreement sets forth a procedure for developing appropriate mitigative measures to lessen the impact of adverse effects.

Action: Appropriate surveys were conducted.

7. Some spring developments and riparian areas may be fenced to prevent grazing and trampling of vegetation and to provide escape areas for wildlife. Water at all spring developments will be maintained at the source.

Action: Not applicable, the proposed action is not to fence a spring or riparian area. The proposed action is to extend existing pipelines.

8. Maintenance of pipelines and spring developments will be accomplished by operator(s) through cooperative agreements with the BLM, or through range improvement permits.

Action: The operator has accepted maintenance and would sign a Cooperative Agreement for this project.

9. Areas which are disturbed by development of facilities will be reseeded with non-exotic species to prevent erosion and replace ground cover. In most instances, reseeded to prevent erosion and replace ground cover will not be necessary with normal pipeline installation and spring development. The necessity of reseeded will be handled on a case by case basis.

Action: Not applicable.

10. Project area cleanup will be accomplished by removing all refuse to an approved sanitary landfill.

Action: The operator will be responsible for all project area cleanup.

11. Visual resource management requires all actions to be in compliance with BLM Visual Resource Management Design Procedures in BLM Manual 8400. On any project which has a visual contrast rating that exceeds the recommended maximum for the visual class zone in which it is proposed, the visual contrasts will be considered significant and mitigating measures must be examined. The ultimate decision as to whether or not mitigating measures must be implemented rest with the District Manager and will be made on a project-by-project basis.

Action: The visual contrast rating, for this project does not exceed the recommended minimum for the visual class zone in which it is proposed.

12. Access will be via existing roads and trails whenever possible. Where existing routes

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are not available, off road travel will be kept to the minimum necessary for construction.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

13. Removal of vegetation will be held to the minimum necessary for construction, access, and to provide for safety.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

14. The operator shall make every effort to prevent causing any fire. The operator shall make effort, with their expertise, to contain and control any fire they cause. All wild fires within the operating area must be reported immediately to the Ely District.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP.

15. All activities will be restricted to those areas and those activities for which all appropriate resource surveys have been conducted and District Manager approval obtained. Any substantial change in activities or work area must be approved by the District Manager.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

16. All survey monuments, witness corners, and reference monuments must be protected against destruction, obliteration or damage. Any damaged or obliterated markers must be reestablished in accordance with accepted survey practices at the expense of the responsible party.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

17. If road maintenance is necessary, it will be conducted by methods approved by the BLM (roads and ditch), maintenance specification drawing NV-0409110-441).

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

18. Operations will be conducted in such a manner as to prevent degradation or destruction of any existing development such as fences, wells or other range improvements. The responsible party for this action will be accountable for any damage to existing development on public land or any damage to private land or developments resulting from this action.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

19. This authorization allows access to public land only. Approval to gain access to private land must be obtained from the land owner.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

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20. Wildlife escape ramps (bird ladders) will be placed within all open water holding facilities.

Action: The operator will comply with this SOP. The BLM Project Inspector will ensure compliance with this SOP.

II. Standard Operating Procedures-Cultural

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (G) The holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (C) and (D), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

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Appendix C: Excerpts from the Ely Field Office Weed Prevention Schedule

- The following Prevention Activities guide this Environmental Assessment:
 1. Include in all NEPA documents, noxious weeds in the List of Critical Elements of the Human Environment.
 2. Require a specific noxious weed inventory in conjunction with the vegetation inventories done on the ground when gathering baseline information for EA's and EIS's.
 3. Consider weed risk, prevention, and treatment in alternatives and evaluation for project planning.
- The following Prevention Activities would be included as Terms and Conditions attached to the Cooperative Agreement for this project:
 1. Check body and undercarriage of off road vehicles and ATV's for plant material and clean with best available method before leaving weed infested area.
 2. If it is determined that seeding is required, refer to current district seeding guidelines for an appropriate mix and confer with an Ely District Fire Ecologist, minerals reclamation specialist, and/or soil scientist.
 3. Insure that weed-free seed is utilized for reclamation or rangeland reseeding.
 4. Areas around troughs and wells, corrals and loading areas, etc, will be closely inspected for introduction of noxious weeds. An Ely District Weed Coordinator will be notified of the presence of noxious weeds.
- The following Prevention Activities would guide mitigation efforts for the Proposed Action:
 1. Areas around troughs and wells, corrals and loading areas, etc, will be closely inspected for introduction of noxious weeds and prompt control measures enacted.

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Appendix D. Risk Assessment for Noxious Weeds

On July 24, 2001, a Noxious Weed Risk Assessment was completed for Pace and Cyclone Pipelines Join and Extension located on the Cliff Springs allotment, Lincoln County, Nevada T. 3 R. 64 Sec. 12,13, 24; T3S R. 65E Sec.6 Mount Diablo. The project will disturb approximately 8 acres of public lands

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious weed species spreading to the project area. For this project, the factor rates as **(None)** at the present time. **This site was visited on July 24, 2001 and the weed inventory was consulted. No noxious weeds are present within or adjacent to the site. Cheatgrass, which is undesirable but not listed as noxious, is present in the area. Cheatgrass is likely to spread along the previously undisturbed corridors.**

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area. For this project, the factor rates as **(LOW)**. **This means that the action will not add any further noxious weed establishment within the allotment. Therefore a score of one (1) is given.**

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2. For this project, the Risk Rating is **(Low: $0 \times 1 = 0$)**. **This rating indicates that the action will have minimal affect on noxious weeds within the rehabilitation area. The action should proceed as planned and control treatment should be initiated if noxious weeds become established in the rehabilitation area.**

Reviewed by: Karen Prentice 9/5/01
Noxious Weed Coordinator

Date

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APPENDIX E. List of Publics Contacted

Lincoln County Commissioners
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mr. Gary McCuin, Department of Agriculture (Reno)
Mr. John McLain, Resource Concepts Inc.
Katie Fite, Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Jon Marvel, Western Watersheds Project
Betsy Macfarlan, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Shelley Hartmann
George I. Andrus
Jule Wadsworth
Steven J. Carter
Melvin Gardner
Mr. Dan Heinz
Lincoln County Commission
Steve Foree, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Amy Lavoie, US Fish and Wildlife Service
H. Bruce Cox

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X. DR/FONSI

DECISION RECORD/FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Decision: I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment and it is my decision to implement the project as proposed. This decision will become final after the 30 day public appeal period.

Rationale: The proposed action is within the array of options identified for the alternatives and proposed action as analyzed in the Programmatic Pipeline and Spring Development EA. There have been no significant changes made associated with the proposed action as presented in the Programmatic Pipeline and Spring Development EA. The proposed action is not substantially different than the action analyzed in the Programmatic Pipeline and Spring Development EA. No new resource information relevant to the proposed action or impacts thereof has been identified which would change our analysis or decisions.

FONSI: I have determined that no significant impacts will occur to the quality of the human environment as a result of this decision; therefore, an EIS is not required.

Rationale: My finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

- The project is in compliance with direction provided by the Caliente Environmental Statement and the Caliente Management Framework Plan, and with guidance provided by the Coordinated Resource Management Process, and the Lincoln County Commissioners.
- The project will have no adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
- The project will have no adverse effects on the human health or environment of minority or low income populations.
- A weeds assessment of the proposed pipeline indicates a low or nonexistent potential for spread of noxious weeds.

James M. Perkins
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

Date